

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 RANGOO 03031 280702Z

21 L14
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 SS-20 AID-20 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SPC-03 TRSE-00 L-03 H-03

EB-11 DEAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 PM-07 IO-14 DRC-01 /121 W
----- 107012

R 280637Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7532
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

S E C R E T RANGOON 3031

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR TH BM
SUBJECT: THAILAND-BURMA NARCOTICS COOPERATION

REF: STATE 249205

1. POST WELCOMES POLICY POSITION SET FORTH REFTEL. BELIEVE IT
REPRESENTS REALISTIC ASSESSMENT OF ESSENTIAL SITUATION AND OFFERS
SOUND BASIS FOR COORDINATED NARCOTICS CONTROL STRATEGY IN THAI-
BURMA POINT OF TRIANGLE. WE PLAN
TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT IN
DETAIL WITH BANGKOK DCM MASTERS WHEN HE VISITS RANGOON NEXT WEEK.

2. MEANTIME HERE ARE SOME INITIAL REACTIONS THAT MIGHT FORM BASIS
FOR DISCUSSION WITH MASTERS.

A. IN ABSENCE AS YET OF GUB RESPONSE TO OUR OFFER, WE CONTINUE
TO FEEL THAT RTG SHOULD NOT YET BE INFORMED OF US OFFER TO BURMA
(RANGOON 2824).

B. THEMES SET FORTH PARAS 1 AND 2 OF REFTEL ARE COGENT AND WE
PLAN TO UTILIZE THEM AS APPROPRIATE IN FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSIONS WITH
GUB ON NARCOTICS EQUIPMENT OFFER. WE BELIEVE NEVERTHELESS THAT
THEY SHOULD BE TOUCHED ON ONLY CAUTIOUSLY IN INITIAL STAGES SINCE
TIME NOT RIPE TO PRESS ON THIS ASPECT.

C. WE ARE GLAD THAT RTG/GUB COOPERATION NOT MADE A CONDITION FOR
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US OFFER AND WE APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S AWARENESS (PARA 2 REFTEL)

OF FACTORS INHIBITING GUB'S COOPERATION WITH THAILAND.

D. WE ALSO SHARE HOPE THAT NEW POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IN THAI-LAND WILL OPEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATER COOPERATION. WE BELIEVE, IN FACT, THAT BURMA'S READINESS TO COOPERATE (ALREADY DEMONSTRATED IN LO CASE) WILL BE MOVED FORWARD IN PROPORTION TO DEMONSTRATED THAI CRACKDOWN ON THAI-BASED ANTI-GUB OPIUM TRAFFICKERS SUCH AS THE SSA AND KIA.

E. BUT AT EARLIEST APPROPRIATE TIME, PERHAPS WHEN GUB RESPONDS TO OUR OFFER, WE SHALL INFORM GUB THAT WE ARE ALSO PLANNING GIVE RTG ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS FOR INTERDICTION OPERATIONS IN BORDER AREA, AND MAKE POINT THAT IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH THAI WILL THEREBY BE INCREASED.

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